

## **Contracts, Grants, and Labor**



## Contracts, Grants, and Labor

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## Topic Area: Contracts, Grants, and Labor

### Action Item

*Implement the Mentor-Protege Program*

### Region 2

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Region 2 has taken steps to implement the contractor Mentor-Protege Program by incorporating appropriate criteria into the Remedial Action Contract (RAC) and the Superfund Technical and Response Team (START) Technical Evaluation Plan (TEP) and incorporating appropriate clauses in the contract documents. Selected contractors will be subjected to pre-negotiated goals for small and disadvantaged business programs. Special contract clauses will hopefully encourage the prime contractors to pursue the Mentor-Protege Program. This strategy is designed to ensure that the prime contractors will give serious attention to the Mentor-Protege Program criteria to enhance their chances of being awarded an EPA contract. Procurement for START contracts was initiated in August 1994. The procurement cycle for the RACs will be initiated in fiscal year 1995.

#### Completed Milestones

8/94          Initiated procurement for START contracts.

#### Contacts

Shaheer Alvi, (212) 637-4324

Keith Kollar, (212) 637-4324

### Region 6

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Region 6 is working with the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to fully implement the Mentor-Protege Program that is being piloted in the Superfund Response Action START contract. The program is designed to stimulate the participation of small and disadvantaged businesses in EPA contracts by fostering long-term relationships between large contractors and small and disadvantaged businesses. Region 6 obtained a list of contractors currently involved in programs in the Region and developed a list of candidate mentor firms. Contact was made with the prospective mentor firms to encourage their participation in the program and to provide guidance in identifying prospective protege firms (small/disadvantaged) in preparing applications to the program. Discussions on the Mentor-Protege Program were integrated into the presentation at the Community Development Partnership Seminar held in the Press Park area of New Orleans, Louisiana.

#### Completed Milestones

10/94          Developed a list of candidate mentor firms.

11/94          Contacted and met with prospective mentor firms.

11/94 Integrated Mentor-Protege Program discussions into the Community Development Partnership Seminar Program.

**Contact**

Carlene Chambers, (214) 665-6720

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**Region 7**

In Region 7, five firms have either approved or pending Mentor-Protege agreements in place. Three firms are under contract in the Alternative Remedial Contracting Strategy (ARCS) program and two are involved with RACs. In addition, the Emergency Response Cleanup Services (ERCS) contractor is seriously investigating potential protege firms with which to enter into an agreement. EPA has emphasized participation in the Mentor-Protege Program by discussing contractor participation and providing incentives to firms to participate through the award fee process. Region 7 has emphasized participation in the Mentor-Protege Program up-front in the solicitation of RAC and Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contracts that are in the procurement phase. Contact for contractors other than ARCS contractors is ongoing.

**Completed Milestones**

11/94 Obtained a list of contractors currently participating in the program, and developed a list of candidate mentor firms.

**Contact**

Debi Morey, (913) 551-7593

**Action Item**

*Promote increased use of local and small and disadvantaged businesses.*

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**Office of Underground Storage Tanks**

The Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST) awarded a grant of \$100,000 to train and certify minority contractors in the removal, installation, monitoring, and leak detection of Underground Storage Tanks (UST). [Note: More detail on this entry is reported under the UST topic area.]

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**Region 2**

Region 2 reports the number of subcontracts awarded under prime contracts to small businesses and small and disadvantaged businesses in individual ARCS contracts to OSDBU. Prime contractors are encouraged to award from 30 to 40 percent of the available subcontracts to small and disadvantaged businesses. The Region promotes the achievement of this goal through performance award fee incentives. ARCS contractors were requested to submit this information by March 1, 1995, and every six months thereafter.

**Completed Milestones**

3/95 Information submitted by ARCS contractors.

**Contact**

Shaheer Alvi, (212) 637-4324

**Region 4**

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As part of the long-term contracting strategies for both the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), Region 4 has established acquisition plans which emphasize use of small and disadvantaged businesses, both as prime contractors and subcontractors. The Region 4 Waste Management Division has also sought and implemented set-aside contracts under Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act. This authorizes the Small Business Administration (SBA) to enter into contracts with other Federal agencies and to perform work on those contracts by subcontracting to “socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns.” One Enforcement Support Services (ESS) contract was awarded to a business that qualifies under Section 8(a). A second contract was awarded to a business that qualifies as a Section 8(a) business to provide assistance in oversight of Federal facilities under the Regional Oversight Contract (ROC). These contract awards have resulted in more than \$12 million being awarded to minority business enterprises. For contracts that are still in the procurement stage, where the contract amount is too substantial for a small or disadvantage business to seek, Region 4 will require that prospective prime contractors seek small and disadvantaged businesses as subcontractors in order to be successful in receiving the award. This requirement will also allow small and disadvantaged businesses to benefit from the contracts. Region 4 also plans to explore the use of monetary incentives for the prime contractors to hire small and disadvantaged businesses.

**Completed milestones**

9/94 Awarded ESS contract.

9/94 Awarded ROC contract.

**Contact**

Matt Robins, (404) 347-3555, x6214

**Region 6**

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Region 6 piloted a community development seminar for labor and contractors located near to sites or facilities regulated by EPA and addressed Federal government contracting opportunities, bidding procedures, training requirements, etc. This seminar brought together several Federal agencies, EPA prime contractors, and training vendors/providers in one room and made them directly available to potential disadvantaged and minority contractors for networking and information sharing on government subcontracting opportunities. Participants included the City of New Orleans, a labor union, the Louisiana Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, SBA, the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers, the General Services Administration, the Department of Energy, and several local universities.

Several subcontracts were awarded as a result of the seminar, including a construction contract for \$500,000. Feedback from the seminar participants and attendees has been overwhelmingly positive. Several statements praised the Region for creating opportunities for the attendees to meet, network, and bid for Federal subcontracts that they otherwise would not have had. The next seminar is tentatively planned for Albuquerque, New Mexico, in the spring or early summer.

### **Completed Milestones**

11/94      Finalized planning for the New Orleans seminar.  
12/94      Held the seminar.  
12/94-1/95      Awarded contracts.

### **Contacts**

Verne McFarland, (214) 665-6617

Carlene Chambers, (214) 665-6720

[Note: This entry is also reported under the Outreach, Communications, and Partnerships topic area and the Federal Interagency Cooperation topic area.]

## **Region 9**

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In Region 9, RCRA Enforcement Permitting Assistance (REPA) Contracts 68-W4-0004 and 68 W4-0005 were amended to unilaterally change the award-fee plan to include the following under the existing “Management” criteria: “Evaluation of management shall include an evaluation of the contractor’s adherence to the requirement and objectives of the approved subcontracting plan negotiated with the contract (e.g., ability to meet Minority Business Enterprise subcontracting goals, subcontracting agreement turn-around times).” The award-fee evaluation will occur every six months.

Also, in an effort to encourage increased use of small/disadvantaged subcontractors, Region 9 is tracking each of the four ARCS contractors’ usage of small businesses through subcontracting as a percentage of total subcontracting dollars spent. EPA has considered each contractor’s success in meeting its goal when calculating the level of award fee paid for the current period of performance. During the last six months’ performance evaluation period, two out of four contractors had exceeded their goals of subcontracting to small businesses. The remaining two contractors were close to achieving their goals. The proposed award fees reflect the success in achieving the goals.

### **Completed milestones**

9/94      Amended REPA Contracts.  
1/95      Completed six month performance evaluation of ARCS contractors.



**Contacts**

Caroline Ireson, (415) 744-2337, (ARCS)

Rich Vaille, (415) 744-2090, (ARCS, REPA)

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**Region 10**

The Region 10 Superfund removal program worked with the State of Idaho and the local employment office in Silver Valley to provide health and safety training to local citizens interested in hazardous waste work. Three one-week training sessions were held, one in February 1994 and two in May 1994. Also, under the Region 10 Emergency Removal Program, the Corps of Engineers subcontractor, OHM, was able to hire 19 local workers out of a total of 26 that lived in the community for work at the Bunker Hill site.

The Region and the State of Idaho also are currently working on the development of a local contractor list. A mechanism to develop and maintain the contractor list is in its initial planning stage. The contractor list will be given to hired prime contractors for use in notifying local contractors of bid opportunities for cleanup work.

**Completed Milestones**

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|------|--|
| 2/94 | Held a one-week health and safety training session for local citizens interested in hazardous waste work.    |
| 5/94 | Held two one-week health and safety training sessions for local citizens interested in hazardous waste work. |

**Contact**

Kirk Robinson, (206) 553-2104

**Action Item**

*Establish a local consultation committee.*

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**Region 6**

Region 6, in collaboration with EPA Headquarters, selected the Agricultural Street Landfill Superfund Site to establish a local consultation committee. The local consultation committee is comprised of local business owners, including owners of minority businesses and the local Chamber of Commerce. The committee assisted Region 6 in selecting a location and developing an agenda for the Community Economic Partnership Seminar held in December 1994 in New Orleans, Louisiana. This committee will continue to assist Region 6 and Headquarters in identifying and addressing environmental justice concerns by helping to identify local employment opportunities and publicize potential contracting opportunities. The committee also will identify the scope and pattern of work in a manner that will facilitate opportunities for small and disadvantaged businesses.

### **Completed Milestones**

- 9/94        Selected the Agricultural Street Landfill Site to establish the local consultation committee.
- 10-11/94    Held local consultation committee meeting to help plan the December 1994 Community Economic Partnership Seminar.

### **Contact**

Verne McFarland, (214) 665-6701

### **Action Item**

*Encourage contractors to hire workers in “labor surplus” areas.*

## **Region 7**

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Region 7 identified geographic areas in the Region with high concentrations of unemployment or underemployment from the “labor surplus area” list published by the Department of Labor. The contracting officer granted approval to require contractor action on hiring workers from labor surplus zones. The Region plans to request detailed information in work assignments or delivery order work plans on how site/facilities will strive to meet their Minority/Women Business Enterprise, and Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (for “set asides” of contracts to be awarded to small and disadvantaged businesses) targets and goals for EPA work conducted in labor surplus areas.

### **Completed Milestones**

- 11/94        Obtained a list of labor surplus areas.
- 1/95        Obtained approval from contracting officer to require action.

### **Contact**

Debi Morey, (913) 551-7593

### **Action Item**

*Use existing Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) provisions to benefit small and disadvantaged businesses.*

## **Region 5**

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Region 5 initiated an effort to ensure that small and disadvantaged businesses obtain their share of contract awards. This effort, through the RCRA Solid Waste Section, included an internal review to evaluate whether contract awards within the existing solid waste management program achieved the eight percent small and disadvantaged business award minimum. Contract award recipients, not in compliance with the requirements, were sent a notification.

**Completed Milestones**

3/94 RCRA Solid Waste Section evaluated existing grants for achievement of eight percent fair share minimum.

**Contacts**

Cindy Wakat, (312) 886-7338

Jennifer Manville, (312) 886-7599

**Action Item**

*Incorporate environmental justice language into grants and cooperative agreements.*

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**Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response**

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The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) has been working with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to develop health and safety training for environmental justice communities. The NIEHS Superfund Worker Training Program has provided safety and health training to over 400,000 workers in high risk occupations during the past seven years through extramural cooperative agreements with unions, universities, and community colleges.

In October 1994, NIEHS issued a Request for Applications (RFA) to solicit grant applications to support partnerships in establishing a new minority worker training pilots. The training pilots will focus on supporting the inclusion of young people of color in environmental restoration activities. In January 1995, EPA and NIEHS held a technical workshop in Cleveland, Ohio, to examine model programs for training young residents of minority communities for employment in environmental restoration projects. The Region received applications for these pilot projects in February 1995.

**Completed Milestones**

10/94 Issued RFA.

1/95 Conducted a technical workshop with NIEHS in Cleveland, Ohio.

2/95 Received pilot applications.

**Contact**

Jim Maas, (202) 260-8927

[Note: This entry is also reported under the Outreach, Communications, and Partnership topic area and the Federal Interagency Cooperation topic area.]

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**Region 2**

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Region 2 began activities to target grant funds to encourage groups in low-income areas to promote recycling and source reduction/pollution prevention. The efforts include informing low-income community organizations of the availability of limited

Federal grant money to promote recycling and source reduction/pollution initiatives. Region 2 has identified the appropriate community and outreach sources. A meeting was scheduled and speakers arranged to discuss the benefits of source reduction/recycling, grant program and paperwork requirements, success stories in other communities, and to respond to questions. Region 2 plans to review the proposals and award the grants by March 1995.

### **Completed Milestones**

9/94            Identified appropriate community completed outreach sources.  
11/94           Met with community target groups in Region 2.  
1/95            Prepared a letter of invitation.  
3/95            Arranged for meeting and speakers in Region 2.

### **Contacts**

Dit Cheung, (212) 637-4124  
Lorraine S. Graves, (212) 637-4099

### **Action Item**

*Establish a pilot program to train minority and/or low-income workers in the hazardous waste cleanup field.*

## **Office of Emergency and Remedial Response**

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The Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (OERR) is designing a pilot program to provide training to minorities and low-income residents in the hazardous waste cleanup field. [Note: More detail on this entry is reported under the CERCLA topic area.]

### **Contact**

Suzanne Wells, (703) 603-8863